

Memorandum



Date: January 14, 2013

To: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County
Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center
Status Report

RCA
Agenda Item No. 7A

Since its opening on October 1, 2011, the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) has hosted 155 events and seen approximately 54,309 people come through its doors. The Center continues to emphasize its goals of presenting artistically excellent work and developing strong community outreach components in everything that it does. So far ticket sales have more than doubled from last season. In November 2011, SMDCAC sold 1,762 tickets and this November 2012, 5,114 tickets were sold.

During the month of December SMDCAC presented several sold-out holiday shows including *The Nutcracker*, performed by Miami Youth Ballet and a concert by Seraphic Fire. Miami Youth Ballet also held two days of field trips for local students to see the production of *The Nutcracker*. The Center also presented The District Stage Company's *Broadway Songbook* for the Cabaret Series, sponsored by Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay. In addition, this month's rental clients included: Artistic Dance Theater (*The Nutcracker*, dance performance); Antiheros Project (*Mahagonny*, black box theater production); Greater Miami Youth Symphony (classical music holiday shows); Where Every Child Is A Star (*Supernova*, singers); and Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau (town hall meeting).

For the month of January SMDCAC presents world music by Pedro Alfonso and Friends, *Flamenco: Spanish Heritage* (January 4-5) and acclaimed national jazz singer Rene Marie (January 25-27) for the Center's Cabaret Series. On the main stage for January is the famed group of dancer-illusionists MOMIX presenting their nature-themed show *Botanica* (January 19). Grammy-award winning a cappella singers Sweet Honey In The Rock performs the evening of January 26 and on the same day, in the morning, the Center will present *Freckleface Strawberry*, a family series musical theater production based on actress Julianne Moore's book for children.

For the new year the Center begins a new education and outreach initiative called *Jump Start Your Resolution* offering a series of FREE community classes to the public such as: hip hop dancing, cardio kickboxing, African dance, belly dancing and yoga.

SMDCAC was recently named a recipient of the Knight Foundation's Knight Arts Challenge for a project called *Bring It Home Miami*. The Department of Cultural Affairs will receive a \$45,000 matching grant for the project, which will celebrate native talent by featuring artists from South Florida who have developed national and international reputations. The Center will honor and welcome talented alumni back "home." The series seeks to kindle community pride among South Floridians around the accomplishments of its homegrown talent.

For a complete listing of upcoming events, please visit the Center's website, www.smdcac.org.

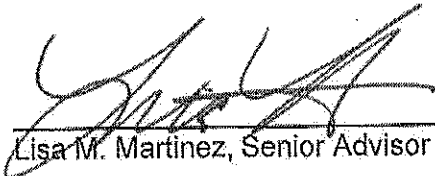
BACKGROUND

The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center is located on S.W. 211 Street in Cutler Bay and is a multidisciplinary arts center designed to showcase the performing arts. The design team was led by architectural and engineering firm Arquitectonica International, Inc, and also included: theater consultant Fisher Dachs Associates, Inc.; acoustical and sound and communications consultant Artec Consultants, Inc.; and arts management consultant AMS Planning & Research Corp.

The Center's 966-seat state-of-the-art Theater Building includes a fly tower, orchestra pit, front of house spaces (box office, lobby, restrooms, concessions, etc.), back of house support spaces (dressing rooms, storage and work areas, administrative offices, etc.) and a multi-purpose rehearsal space. The separate Activities Building of the Center houses an informal performance space, and smaller multi-purpose spaces for lectures, classes, or community gatherings. The Center's two buildings are joined by an outdoor promenade leading to a gently-sloping lawn for outdoor concerts and festivals along the Black Creek Canal.

Through Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places Program, the Center has major public art works created by Miami artist Robert Chambers. An innovative light piece illuminates the translucent inner lobby wall with changing light designs created by computer-programmed LED fixtures. In addition, the lobby features two marble sculptures also created by Robert Chambers.

This season Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay has generously sponsored the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center's Cabaret Series.



Lisa M. Martinez, Senior Advisor to the Mayor

**SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER
ATTACHMENT**



Pictured among the winners of the Knight Arts Challenge is Michael Spring, Director of Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs representing South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center for the project *Bring It Home Miami*.



Students from Lamar Louise Middle School during a Nutcracker performance field trip.